

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Blumenthal, Vice-Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Morin-Bello, Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco, and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee,

My name is Merla Porter. I live in West Haven and am a retired CT school teacher.

I am writing in Support of:

H.B. No. 5004 (Comm) An Act Implementing Early Voting.

S.B. No. 1064 (Raised) An Act Concerning the Implementation of Early Voting.

S.J. No. 29 (Comm) Resolution Approving an Amendment to the State Constitution to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

H.J. No. 1 (Comm) Resolution Approving a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

H.B. No. 6693 (Raised) An Act concerning Absentee Voting.

and with Conditional Support of:

S.B. No. 1057 (Raised) An Act Concerning the Secretary of the State and Early Voting.

I urge you to implement Early Voting that includes:

- 14 - 18 days of early voting with expanded hours that include mornings, evenings and weekend days.
- guaranteed fair access across the state with locations based on the number of age-eligible voters to make voting equally convenient for all, including those who may find it difficult to vote within 14 hours on 1 day in November. Many Connecticut voters are single parents; those who work shifts, long hours or multiple jobs; disabled; elderly; those with transportation issues; and students and workers who are out of state for long periods of time.
- fully funded Early Voting to provide financial aid to municipalities as they improve voting and public education so voters understand and can take advantage of the changes.

- **I also urge you to pass No-Excuse Absentee Voting** so that this can be a ballot referendum in 2024. Our state's recent experience with No-Excuse Absentee Voting has been positive.
- Voting by Absentee Ballot during Covid was convenient for me; it gave me the ability to choose a best time to vote.
- In 2020, voting by Absentee Ballot was favored by 35% of Connecticut voters.
- Voter turnout increased when Absentee Ballots were available during the pandemic.

I support the expansion of voting access in Connecticut.

Thank you,

Merla Porter
West Haven, CT